

After page 13, insert the following Abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

The invention provides an emergency evacuation apparatus for removing a bed-ridden person from a bed in an emergency situation. The apparatus includes a base tray having at least one transverse fold line to allow the base tray to bend as two or more panels. This apparatus is therefore suitable for use with a modern adjustable bed, which can be electrically or manually operated to adjust the profile of the mattress to provide better ergonomic support for the person lying on the bed. The base tray also has mechanical locking means operable between an unlocked condition where the base tray can bend along the transverse fold line and a locked condition where the base tray is unable to bend along the transverse fold line. The mechanical locking means also provides the base tray with sufficient longitudinal rigidity to support the weight of an adult person.